Basona Woreda 2nd Strategic Innovation Platform Meeting Minutes

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The Africa Research in Sustainable Intensification for the Next Generation (Africa RISING) program comprises three research-for-development projects supported by the United States Agency for International Development as part of the U.S. government’s Feed the Future (FtF) initiative.

Through action research and development partnerships, Africa RISING will create opportunities for smallholder farm households to move out of hunger and poverty through sustainably intensified farming systems that improve food, nutrition, and income security, particularly for women and children, and conserve or enhance the natural resource base.

The three projects are led by the International Livestock Research Institute (in the Ethiopian Highlands) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (in West Africa and East and Southern Africa). The International Food Policy Research Institute leads an associated project on monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment.

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| by-nc-sa This document is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License  AR_Global_partners.jpg  This document was made possible with support from the American people delivered through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the US Government’s Feed the Future Initiative. The contents are the responsibility of the producing organization and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of USAID or the U.S. Government. |

Introduction

[Africa RISING in Ethiopian highlands](http://africa-rising.net/where-we-work/ethiopian-highlands/) is a research for development project that focus on **s**ystem interventions in the crop-and-livestock mixed farming system in four big regions (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR). The project understands the need for engaging various research and development partners in addressing system interventions. For this the project established and support innovation platforms at field sites for cooperation and co-learning**.** The platforms are supported to facilitate meaningful and effective interactions that prioritize, guide, and evaluate the various research and development processes specific to the sites. The platforms started helping connect farmers to profitable and efficient value chains for the main commodities. The members of the platforms are contributing in designing, implementing, evaluating project activities and disseminate and communicate research findings though regular meetings and farmers field days.

**Innovation platforms and farmer research groups**Innovation platforms (IPs) have been formed at all the research sites. The platforms aim to nurture linkages among farming communities, the Africa RISING research teams and other public and private actors working in the areas. They work at three levels:

1. At woreda (district) level, strategic IPs support kebele platforms and farmer research groups. They bring together stakeholders to support wider adoption of innovations.
2. At kebele level, operational platforms oversee local research activities, foster integration among the farmer research groups, and promote alignment of local on-farm research with district priorities.
3. Farmer research groups are like innovation clusters. They involve all farmers who are active around specific clusters of research activities – such as forage production, water delivery or varietal improvement. The roles of these groups are expected to expand to promote scaling of innovation to wider groups of farmers.

Regular IP meetings are held at strategic and operational level for sharing and communicating research findings. This report aims to share one of the strategic IP meeting that was organized in one of the project site called Basona worena woreda, Amhara Region.

The second strategic Innovation Platform (IP) meeting was organised on 07 February 2015 at Zone office of Agriculture in Debre Birhan town. About 33 strategic IP members coming from 20 different organizations that work within the Woreda participated on the meeting. The meeting was held at the Zonal Office based on the agreement reached by the innovation platform members to host meetings in rotation. It was the first innovation platform meeting after its establishment meeting back in March last year bringing a good opportunity to update local partners on Africa RISING research activities since then.

Basona Worena Woreda 2nd Strategic IP meeting

**Venue**: Zone office of agriculture, Debre Brihan

**Participants from CGIAR centers:**

* Hadiya Seid (ICRAF)
* Yetsedaw (ICRAF)
* Elias Damtew (ILRI)

**Facilitator** – Abiro Tigabe (Debre Brihan Agricultural Research Centre)

**Minute takers**: Elias Damtew, Amhayesus Belete, Shimeles Mengistu, Temesgen Alene

**Objectives of the meeting:**

* The meeting was organized for learning and sharing through communicating research findings undertaken in Basona worena woreds and collecting feedbacks and comments
* To share roles and responsibilities among platform members for scaling out/up of innovations from last year (2014) interventions by Africa RISING and its partners

**Introduction**

The meeting was started by welcoming and introducing the day agenda by Workineh Dubale. Workineh addressed in his speech that the meeting aims to communicate and update the progress of the Africa RISING supported research activities in Lemo woreda and share research findings to stakeholders. He encouraged active participation by all IP members to exchange knowledge as well as contribute to taking the innovation to scale.

The chairman of Lemo woreda *seleme* strategic IP, Ato Belayneh Osire, officially opened the day meeting by addressing the importance of the platform for the stakeholders to share and learn based on evidences generated. He encouraged participants to participate and benefit most out of it.

Ashenafi was facilitating the whole day meeting and he introduced the agenda and invited participants to speed networking. All participants stand from their chairs and walk in the meeting venue and look for new persons to introduce themselves. It was fun and ice breaker for all participants to start the meeting.

**Outputs of the meeting**

Progress and challenges on crop (by Temesgen Alene-Site Coordinator), feed and highland fruit related research protocols (by Shimelis Mengistu-Ass. Site coordinator), watershed activities (by Endale Lema- Head of Woreda Office of Agriculture), capacity building activities (by Temesgen Alene) and scaling options were among the presentation and points of discussion on the meeting on the meeting. Different questions and suggestions were raised from participants.



Figure 1: Endalle's presentation on watershed experience sharing visit (Shimelis/ILRI)

**Crop research protocols**

The site coordinator, Temesgen, illustrated the different crop related research activities, methodologies and some preliminary results of the activities. Results on a number of evaluation parameters from mid and end seasons evaluations in malt barley, food barley, fababean, bread wheat, potato were part of the presentation. He has illustrated progress on data compilation from trials, capacity development activities and field days, and about the two automatic weather stations AR planted in the two kebeles.

Challenges presented:

* Late site selection
* Less capacity to mobilize local researchers
* Fababean disease

It was emphasized the danger of doing trials on a single farm which is reflected by the diverging evaluation results from farmers and the research. The results or yield data should have some reference to compare so there needs to be baseline information on yield and production performance so at the end of the day we will see the contribution of the AR in that aspect.

Concerning the PVS activities, the participants suggested that it may be difficult to decide the best crop species/variety based on one single farmers’ field result. Rather it need to be tested on at least six farmers with replication.

**Animal Feed Protocols**

The assistant site conductor updated on progress of forage and tree Lucerne, highland fruits and crop residue intervention in the area. The data collection process and laboratory analysis for the animal forage and the seedling preparation, distribution and growth stage of tree Lucerne were presented.

**Major discussion points**

* It was suggested that bulky nature of crop residue is the main problem for carrying it from field to storage, there needs to be some simple belling technique that needs to be introduced.
* Participants stressed that experimenting irrigated fodder production seems relevant for the area. But, farmers sometimes have a concern that the forage species (Vetch and Oat) becomes a weed for the next crop to be planted on the same land. So, it may be better to introduce other forage species as an option.
* Demonstration should be replicated to more sites recommendation has to be based on at least six sites.
* There is less follow up on the highland fruit trees in our research sites. It is not even enough for development work let alone for research. Urea treatment for improving crop residue should be considered in next trials.
* Livestock component is weak in Africa rising so more emphasis needs to be given in the future.

**Africa RISING Watershed development work with the Woreda**

Gudo beret , Gina beret sub-Kebele, is the place where AR and the woreda are collaborating on watershed development. Now the Woreda has started the physical work at the top of the watershed. The office also started multiplying seedlings for multi-purpose trees for the biological intervention. The office wants the intervention to be evidence/science based so Africa RISING and the local research center are expected to contribute to this end. The Woreda office has only falaris and treelucern for the biological interventions, so more options should come from the research work.

Gaps that the research should bridge in the Watershed intervention

* Some of the recommended interventions are generic from Ministry of Agriculture. We need local evidence
* Continues need based farmer trainings
* Active participation of researchers in field monitoring and evaluation
* We need new tree species that are compatible with the crop system in the area

Major challenges mentioned in the natural resources management work in the area:-

* On rainy season, it’s time for harvesting making it harder to mobilize farmers effectively
* Very little technical support from local agricultural research institute
* Limited tree species to be planted on physical structures- only the two (Tree Lucerne and falaris ) are available in the area.

On the discussion it was emphasised that Debre Brehan Research Center and Bebre Brehan University should provide the necessary technical support for the work. There are previous researches done on watershed management both at the woreda and regional level, so important to refer to it.

Abrow, the IP facilitator, presented the IP structures at different levels and the communication tools are proposed and being used at center and site levels. Participants underscored the importance of applying practically the suggested communication tools at the sites.

**Scaling options**

* **Crop seed**
* The major problem for the woreda, especially for the extension work is lack of inputs mainly initial improved seeds. Hence, it is appreciated if Africa RISING covers the cost of initial seeds; then the extension sector will keep further scaling up/out by revolving seeds from one farmer to another.
* **Highland fruit**
* Establishment of nursery will have great contribution for the woreda to use as a source. Hence, starting establishment process in the near future needs to be promoted by concerned stake holder.
* Initial seeds/seedlings for establishment need to be collected from known sources within the region.

**IP proposed activities**

Some activities were discussed and agreed to be executed by the innovation platform until end of 2016

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| activity | Lead organization | when |
| Follow up the proposal submitted to Africa RISING on sprinkler irrigation facility to be used for seed multiplication | Debre Brehan Agri. Research Center (DBARC)with a follow up by the IP | Feb-June, 2015-Instalation  Jan-June 2016- Production |
| Input supply for the scaling up work   * Seed * Fertilizer * chemicals | African RISING; AGP;SLM | Irrigation facility will pave the way for the seed supply work |
| Training  Capacity building (3 trainings) | DBU (Debre Brehan University) and DBARC | Arfica RISING research activities after June should be known to identify areas for training |
| Invite private sectors actors in the areas to next IP meetings Factories   * Habesha brewery * Dashen brewery * NAS foods * Kaliti food complex | 3rd IP meeting | Around June |
| Scaling up (the strategy should be refined in time) | IP and Woreda office of agriculture | Continuous |

Annexes

**Annex 1:** Agenda

**2nd Strategic Innovation Platform Meeting-Basona Worena Woreda**

**Date: 07 Feb. 2014, Venue: Zone Office of Agriculture**

**Agenda**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time | Activity | Presenter | Facilitator | Remarks |
| 2:30-3:00 | Registration |  | Shimelis | Briefs, Note book and pen with registration |
| 3:00 -3:10 | Welcome and Introduction to Agenda | Temesgen Alene | Abiro |  |
| 3:10 -3:20 | Opening remarks | Zone/Woreda head |  |
| 3:20 -3:30 | Self-Introduction (Ice-breaker) | All |  |
| 3:30-3:45 | Woreda office of agriculture (NRM) – recent NRM campaign work and gaps/challenges the can be filled with recent IWM proposed collaborative work between AR and office of Agri. | Endale Lemma |  |
| 3:45-4:05 | Basona IP update - structure, functions and communication tools | IP facilitator /Abiro/ |  |
| 4:05-4:25 | Africa RISING research activities (crop, livestock, fruit trees) in Basona (Update findings, challenges and opportunities) | Temesgen & Shimelis |  |
| 4:25-4:40 | Discussion | All |  |  |
| 4:40-5:00 | Tea/Coffee break –group photo | All | Africa RISING |  |
| 5:00-5:15 | Which technologies have been selected for scaling up? | Shimelis | Temesgen |  |
| 5:15-6:00 | Possible next IP activities- where could IP and CG partners work together on protocol implementation? | Elias/Temesgen |  |
| 6:00-6:30 | Presentation of M&E tools and gathering baseline information | Elias/Amahaeyesus |  |
|  | Lunch break |  |  |  |
| Afternoon | Visit to Debre Birhan Agricultural research center (DBARC) | DBARC team | Africa RISING |  |
| **Closing** |  |  |  |

**Annex 2**: List of 2nd Strategic Innovation Platform meeting in Basona Worena woreda

| No | Name | Organization | Role | e-mail | Phone |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Abiro Tigabie | Debrebrihan Agricultural Research Centre | Agro Economist | abirot@yahoo.com | 931522241 |
| 2 | Adamu Molla (PhD) | Debrebrihan Agricultural Research Centre | Agronomist | adamu\_molla@yahoo.com | 911753091 |
| 3 | Ayele Abebe | Debrebrihan Agricultural Research Centre | Associate Researcher | yemichaeld@gmail.com | 911056089 |
| 4 | Beyene Bitew | Debrebrihan Agricultural Research Centre | Center Director, plant pathologist | beyenebitew@yahoo.com | 911338789 |
| 5 | Fiseha Desalegn | Debrebrihan Agricultural Research Centre | Junior Researcher | fisehadesalegn88@gmail.com | 934378865 |
| 6 | Amhayesus Belete | Debrebrihan University | Instructor | Amhab28@gmail.com | 920175218 |
| 7 | Tsigemariam Bashe | Debrebrihan University | Agriculture College Dean | tsigemar2001@gmail.com | 912181287 |
| 8 | Mikre Gasahw | Goshe Bado Kebele adminstration office | Administrator |  | 911919746 |
| 9 | Sebsbie Sahlie | Goshe Bado Kebele Agriculture office | Head | sahliesev@gmail.com | 911076627 |
| 10 | Abebech Workneh | Goshe Bado Kebele FRG | Farmers Research Group representative |  | 936642933 |
| 11 | Behabtu Mulatu | Goshe Bado Kebele FRG | Farmers Research Group representative |  |  |
| 12 | Wondiye Desta | Gudo Beret Kebele administration office | Administrator |  | 913847213 |
| 13 | Engidasew Abebe | Gudo Beret Kebele Agriculture office | Head |  | 913015799 |
| 14 | Eshetie Teklemariam | Gudo Beret Kebele FRG | Farmers Research Group representative |  |  |
| 15 | Hailu Woldekidan | Gudo Beret Kebele FRG | Farmers Research Group representative |  | 920857632 |
| 16 | Yetsedaw Aynewa | ICARDA | Reseach Assistant | ayenyetse@gmail.com | 918710628 |
| 17 | Hadia Seid | ICRAF | Research Assistant | hadi03@yahoo.com | 913293250 |
| 18 | Hirut Babaw | SUNARMA | NRM expert | Hirut.babaw2005@gmail.com | 913682970 |
| 19 | Menberu Teguame | SUNARMA | Project coordinator | menbert05@yahoo.com | 930293797 |
| 20 | Sisay Tekletsadik | Vission micro finance | Branch Manager | sisyt658@gmail.com | 912052265 |
| 21 | Girma Tilaye | Water, Mine and Energy office | Enegry technology alternatives team leader |  | 913113646 |
| 22 | Andualem Lulseged | Wodera Union | Representative |  | 920056945 |
| 23 | Zemedkun Belete | Woreda Adminstration office | Head |  | 922924222 |
| 24 | Belete Bekure | Woreda cooperative office | Head |  | 913515533 |
| 25 | Demeke Woldetensay | Woreda finance and development office | NGO Monit. officer | demewolde@gmail.com | 912906918 |
| 26 | Endale Lemma | Woreda office of Agriculture | Head |  | 911088605 |
| 27 | Jemal Mohammed | Woreda office of agriculture | Sustainable land managemnt focal person |  | 911777136 |
| 28 | Shewangizaw W/mickael | Woreda office of Agriculture | Vice head | shewa1216@yahoo.com | 925505261 |
| 29 | Tegene Seifu | Woreda office of Agriculture | Agricultural growth program focal person | tegene2010@yahoo.com | 910359492 |
| 30 | Ayelech Woldemichael | Woreda office of communication | Vice head |  | 911913105 |
| 31 | Giyon Mengste | Woreda TVET & EDO | Head representative |  | 913308562 |
| 32 | Tinbite Gebresselasae | Woreda women, children & youth affairs office | Head |  | 913300954 |
| 33 | Dawit Belay | Zone of agriculture office | Extension communication Expert | dawitbelay903@yahoo.com | 911811295 |
| 34 | Admasu Altaye | Zone office of Agriculture | Vice head | admasu.altaye@yahoo.com | 910805679 |
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| 36 | Temesgen Alene | ILRI/Africa RSINING | Site coordinator | [t.alene@cgiar.org](mailto:t.alene@cgiar.org) | 0920512116 |
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